

## Town Administrators March 2017 Monthly Report





## Town Administrators February 2017 Monthly Report

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Dear Mayor and Council,

During the month of March much of my focus was spent on the process of hiring the Town's new Chief of Police. We were very fortunate to have the assistance of Chief David Morris from Riverdale Park guiding us through the process. Chief Morris was instrumental in developing a selection process to ensure we hired the most qualified candidate to lead the Town's Police Department.

Chief Morris has extensive experience and knowledge in law enforcement and this experience was invaluable. He graciously volunteered his time to help with developing pre-selection questions that interested candidates needed to respond to as part of the application process. Additionally he developed questions to further drill down on the candidates experience to assist with narrowing down the list of candidates to interview.

As part of the interview process Chief Morris developed a presentation exercise focused on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing and more specifically, Pillar Four, Community Policing. Each candidate was asked to do a presentation on Pillar Four and how they would incorporate this into the Bladensburg Police Department. Three very highly qualified candidates were interviewed and the recommendation for the new Chief of Police will be presented to the Mayor and Council to consider for appointment during the April 10, 2017 Town Council meeting.

As always, the Town staff and I will continue to make every effort to increase efficiencies in Town services as we serve the citizens of Bladensburg. On behalf of the Town staff, I hope you find this report to be an informative tool that assists you, the policy makers, in better serving the Town of Bladensburg, and provides transparency and useful information to the citizens and businesses of the community. I look forward to hearing any feedback you may have. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, and/or suggestions regarding this report.

## **CURRENT & UPCOMING PROJECTS**

### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

The Mayor and Town Council were presented with the draft Strategic Plan to consider for adoption and implementation during the March Town Council meeting. The plan was approved and adopted.

#### Next Steps

- Develop a draft Action Plan to support the objectives, goals and strategies of the plan – April 2017.

### **TNI TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE**

The TNI Transition Team met to go over 11 areas of interest identified as part of the Transition from the County led TNI to a Community led TNI. The 11 areas included:

- a. Education
- b. Addressing the homeless population
- c. Arts and Cultural Enhancement
- d. Public Safety
- e. Jobs & Job skill training
- f. Rebranding Bladensburg
- g. Environment
- h. Build Strong Public/Private Partnerships
- i. Resolving school traffic on 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- j. Code Enforcement
- k. Resolving Food Desert

The Team members identified four areas to focus their efforts on over the next year and established the following Action Items to work on for each focus area.

1. Jobs and Workforce training
  - a. Action Item – Bring the Economic Development Corporation’s One-Stop Center to Bladensburg on a quarterly basis to provide career and job assessment opportunities to Town residents.
  - b. Collaborate with the East Riverdale CKAR to provide workforce training opportunities at their new workforce and career development center.
2. Rebranding Bladensburg
  - a. Explore partnering with the University of Maryland’s Urban Studies School to assist the Town with developing a rebranding marketing strategy.

### 3. Environment

- a. Identify grant funding opportunities to purchase storm drain covers to prevent debris from going into storm drains throughout the Town.
- b. Work with students to assist with monthly trash pick-up throughout the Town (students can use this volunteer opportunity to earn their community service credits).

### 4. Partnerships

- a. Identify new partnership opportunities to increase collaborative initiatives and increase resource opportunities.
- b. Enhance existing partnerships.

## **REDSIGING OF TOWN WEBSITE**

Staff is continuing to develop content for the website and working with MDA Technologies to develop an easy to navigate website. The goal is to have the site ready for beta testing in early May and final roll out of the new website by the beginning of June 2017.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES/INITIATIVES**

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The Town Park upgrade has been completed. Due to the recent hydro-seeding, the Park will remain closed to give the seeding and new grass time to take hold and start growing. We are very excited about the completion of the project and look forward to holding a ribbon cutting ceremony hopefully in May.

## **MEETINGS/EVENTS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Town Administrator was involved in the following meetings/events and community outreach activities:

1. Attended the Parkview Tenant Council Meeting.
2. Attended the B5 meeting.
3. Attended the Port Town CDC storm-water management planning meeting.
4. Assisted with facilitating the TNI Transition meeting.
5. Met with Chief Pickle from the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department.
6. Attended the County Executive Women's Luncheon.
7. Attended the Rosina Baldi Park Community meeting.

8. Met with Patricia Parker and Dan Smith to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant funding CKAR recently received to encourage the planting of trees in East Riverdale and the Town of Bladensburg.